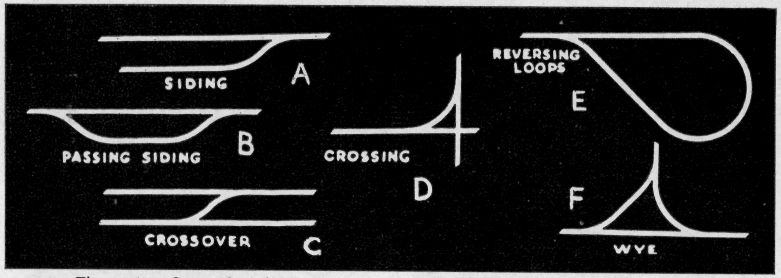


These Are Some Simple Devices Used on Model Railroad Track Layouts

ELEVATE YOUR LAYOUT

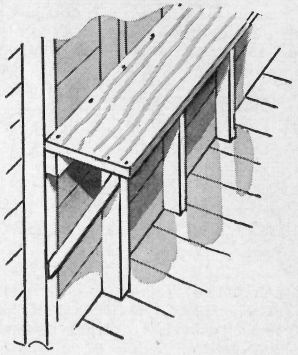
The ideal location for a permanent layout is on a large table or specially built "run-around" wall shelving. Floor layouts risk the perils of stepped-on track, they are awkward to get at and must be broken up when the floor needs cleaning.

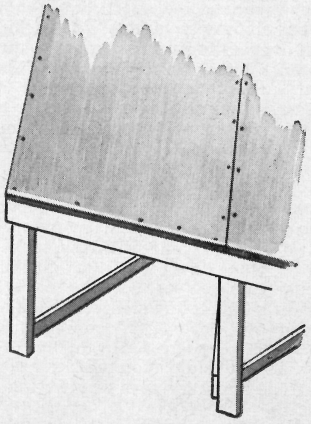
Favorite spots for waist-level train setups are dry cellars, attics, spare rooms and garages. The diagrams below illustrate simple methods of building wall shelving or tables. Platforms can be cheaply constructed of old lumber or second-hand plywood. Plywood has definite advantages in that it requires little cutting or fitting and simplifies drilling of holes for hidden wiring. If you construct a table arrangement be sure that the legs are well cross-braced. Wall shelving, too, should be sturdily built to prevent sway and unsteadiness.

One of the principal reasons for the shelf or table layout is to bring model train operation to a realistic-view angle. Although there is some dispute as to the correct height from the floor, the general agreement is that 40 inches is about right for adults, a height of about 26 inches for the seven or eight-year-old. For a father-and-son layout it is possible to construct a narrow six-inch step to take care of the junior partner.

MAKE USE OF "MAGNE-TRACTION"

You will undoubtedly want to have some mountainous sections on your layout to make use of the grade-pulling power of your locomotive's "Magne-Traction". Be sure that your high-level roadbeds and overpasses are securely anchored to the platform so that train vibration will not loosen them. One caution: do not start track grades too sharply or the pilot of your locomotive may strike the third rail in passing, causing a "short."





"Clean and Lubricate Your Equipment"

FIVE INTERESTING LAYOUTS

Here are five intriguing layouts that you can shoot for when you start planning your railway system. The setups in Figures 66 and 67 are good examples of how you can begin with simple loops and gradually expand with the addition of switches and sidings. Any one of these layouts, when finished, can handle several trains, and all are planned for both passenger and freight service.

All accessories shown are available at your Lionel dealer, with the exception of the turntable in Figure 69. You can build this turntable yourself from plans furnished by model builder magazines. You will, of course, want to add a number of accessories such as semaphores, block signals, etc.

MAKING ODD-LENGTH TRACK

These drawings give you an idea of the number of track sections, switches, and remote control sections needed. You will note that some layouts call for the use of half-track or odd lengths. Your Lionel dealer can supply you with "O" half-track. To make "027" half-sections or odd lengths, track can easily be cut by placing it in a vise and using a hack saw. The layout shown in Figure 66, above, is an excellent road to fit on a large table or an around-the-room layout. It permits simple operations, even though two trains may be run in opposite directions. Space needed: 130″ by 110″.

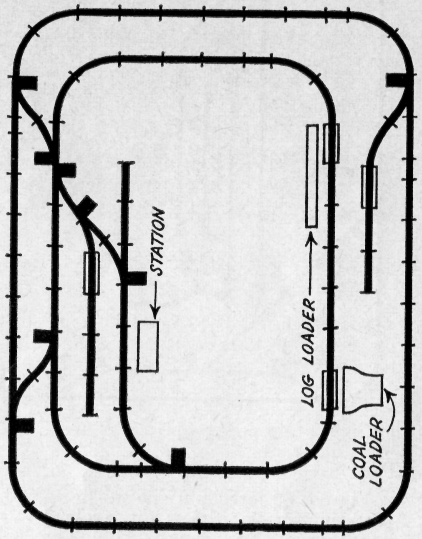


Figure 66

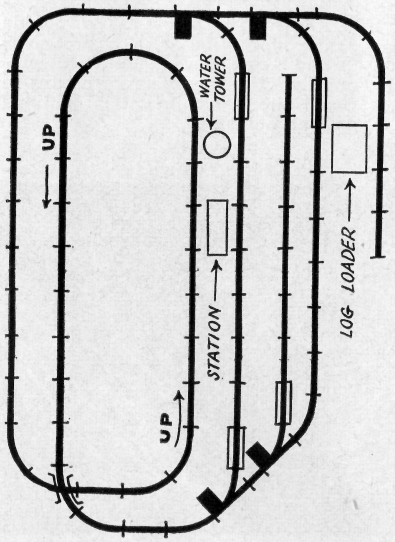


Figure 67

The layout illustrated in Figure 67, requires only four switches. Crossing at lower left-hand corner can be accomplished by grading with overpass, giving good opportunity for "Magne-Traction" trains. Space needed: 130″ by 100″.

EXPANDING YOUR PIKE

In Figure 68, you can start with the entire big loop around the table. Later, you can insert additional sidings, such as the station siding, and the house track where the log-loader is located. The coal-loader siding can be added when convenient, and can be placed almost anywhere on the road. Final addition could be the reversing loop on the botton. Space needed: 140″ by 160″.

"Wipe Your Track Regularly"